

74. The Mayor and City Council shall have power to provide for the laying out, opening, extending, widening, straightening, relocating or closing of any street or alley, or parts thereof, within the city, which, in their opinion, the public welfare or convenience may require; to provide for ascertaining whether any and what amount in value of damage will be caused thereby, for which the owner or possessor of any property through which said street or alley-way may pass, ought to be compensated, by the appointment of commissioners to assess the same; to provide for assessing and levying either generally on the whole assessable property within the city or specially on the property of persons benefited, the whole or any part of the damages and expenses which will be incurred in laying out, opening, extending, widening, straightening, relocating or closing such street or alley, or parts thereof, and grading the same; to provide for collecting and paying the compensation awarded to any person before any such street or alley, or part thereof, shall be laid out, opened, extended, widened, straightened, relocated or closed, to enact all ordinances from time to time necessary or proper to the exercise of the powers granted in this section, provided that before they shall proceed to execute any of the powers vested in them by this section, at least thirty days' notice shall be given of any application which may be made for the passage of any such ordinance, by advertisement in at least two newspapers printed in said city; and by a personal notice in writing served twenty days before upon each property holder to be affected by the passage of the proposed ordinance, giving notice of the time and place named for the passing of said ordinance, provided said parties are residents of Allegany County, and provided further that upon the return of any assessment of damages or benefits or both, made under any ordinance passed under this section, the clerk of said city shall cause a copy thereof to be published once a week for four successive weeks in two newspapers of opposite political faith printed in said city; and provided further that whenever said Mayor and City Council open, lay out, extend, widen, straighten or relocate any street or alley, or any part or parts thereof, they shall establish the grade thereof, and such grade when so established shall be indicated upon a plat, and a description thereof shall be recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Allegany County; and when the Mayor and City Council deem it proper to do so they shall have the said streets or alleys **graded.**